

U.S. Congressman Phil Gingrey
Opening Statement

House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee
June 5, 2013

HEARING: *“Reforming SGR: Prioritizing Quality in a Modernized Physician Payment System”*

Mr. Chairman,

As a physician, I am pleased that we are addressing the flawed SGR system and seeking to give doctors more certainty over reimbursements. By using specialty societies and other professional groups to create quality measures that will be used to promote best practices, we will see better patient outcomes and a more efficient payment system.

I do have a concern that the quality measures associated with payment reform may lead to unwarranted court claims. Government payment reform should not have any effect on a doctor’s liability.

During PPACA debate, then Chairman Waxman submitted comments for the Record which stated that it was not the intent of the President’s health care bill to “create any new actions or claims based on the issuance or implementation of any guideline or other standard of care,” “nor is it to supersede, modify or impair any State medical liability law governing legal standards or procedures used in medical malpractice cases.”

Mr. Chairman,

There is bipartisan agreement that the intent of our Federal healthcare laws is to promote quality, not to create new avenues for medical malpractice claims. I look forward to working with the Subcommittee to address this potential loophole as we work towards physician payment reform.

Thank you and I yield back.